



Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2017

9:30 AM

Department of Health Services State Laboratory
250 N. 17th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A meeting of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission convened on March 2, 2017 at 9:39 a.m. at 250 N. 17th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. Present and absent were the following members of the Commission:

Members Present

Cindi Nannetti, Chair	Rob Lubitz
Alice Bustillo	Greg McKay
James Beene	James Molina
Shawn Cox	Vada Phelps
Mindy Flannery	Leslie Quinn
Helen Gándara	Christina Schopen
Robert Graham Jr.	Don Walker
Joseph Grossman	Dorothy Wodraska
Jason Holmberg	Myrtle Young
Jane Kallal	
Joseph Kelroy	

Members Absent

Robert Brutinel	Dennis Pickering
Tom Callahan	Shaun Rieve
Heather Carter	Robert Thomas
Dan Goldfine	
Jose Gonzales	
Debra Olson	

Staff and Guests Present

Myriah Mhoon, GOYFF	Celena Angstead, Pinal County
Alexa Morganroth, GOYFF	Priscilla Behnke, CAASA
Sonya Pierce-Johnson, GOYFF	John Crabtree, ADJC
John Raeder, GOYFF	Jamal Givens, Child & Family Resources
Steve Selover, GOYFF	Deborah Kurth, AOC
Bob Shogren, GOYFF	David Redpath, AOC
Amanda Webb, GOYFF	James Tippet, CAASA
	Anna Tracy, Family Resource Center

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Cindi Nannetti called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

B. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Nannetti requested introductions by all present.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the meeting held December 1, 2016 were reviewed. Members approved the December 1, 2016 minutes by unanimous vote.

D. PLANNING MEETING PURPOSE

Bob Shogren, Governor's Office Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF), gave a recap of his participation two years ago in assisting with the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission (AJJC) strategic planning. Mr. Shogren was happy to be back and facilitate the meeting again. The main goal of the meeting is to evaluate the AJJC focus areas which are: School-Based Programs, Detention Alternatives, Aftercare and Reentry, Mental Health Services, DMC research and Intervention, Substance Abuse and Systems Improvement. Mr. Shogren gave a summary of the meeting's agenda which involves brief updates from community programs, a review of accomplishments, and identification of gaps and next steps.

- **School Programs**

Priscilla Behnke, Maricopa CAASA, gave an introduction on the School Based Mentorship Program through Maricopa CAASA. Ms. Behnke gave an overview of the mentoring project which included individual mentoring, group mentoring and community based mentoring. The purpose of the program is to provide caring relationships with a mentor who can counteract the challenges some youth face. Ms. Behnke stated that 26% of youth living in Maricopa come from single parent homes or homes where the biological father is absent. Ms. Behnke stated that fatherless homes account for 85% of youth who exhibit behavior problems, 71% of high school dropout rates, and 75% of youth in drug and alcohol treatment facilities. Ms. Behnke was also able to provide outcomes from last year's programs. In 2016, there was a 15% overall improvement of GPA scores in youth attending the program. Thirty-three percent had increased attendance in school and 49% had improved behaviors in the classroom. Ms. Behnke stressed the need for a better sustainability plan instead of a heavy reliance on grant funding to continue the program.

- **Alternatives to Detention**

Celena Angstead, Pinal County Juvenile Court Services, presented an overview of the alternative to detention program through the Pinal County Juvenile Court Services. Ms. Angstead explained that her program provides an alternative option for youth whose criminal offenses are mainly substance abuse, domestic violence and theft. The keys to the program are emphasizing family engagement and building life skills. Ms. Angstead spoke of community collaboration with Empact but expressed that more community engagement is needed for the program to continue to be successful.

- **Aftercare/Reentry**

John Crabtree, representing the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC), presented on the aftercare reentry program through ADJC. The projects work with best practices and acknowledgment that reentry begins at the time of admission through release and return into the community. Mr. Crabtree explained that the program's core principals consist of comprehensive assessment, family engagement, individual treatment planning, intervention, readiness for release and case management through discharge. Mr. Crabtree

stressed that a comprehensive assessment takes place within the first 28 days the youth is in the program. Assessments are vast but mainly assess for substance abuse, sex offender behaviors, mental health and behavior health. The programs main goal is to create readiness for release, which is supported with a robust continuous case plan containing a transitional plan that includes coordination with community case management, community corrections team and connection to intervention in the community. Mr. Crabtree expressed that challenges and gaps included the lack of educational options for youth, persistent substance abuse and the lack behavior health counseling needs. Barriers also included lack of resources in the rural communities.

- **Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)**

David Redpath and Dr. Deborah Kurth, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), presented on the Examination of Ethnic Disparities in Arizona's Juvenile Justice System study. Mr. Redpath gave a historical overview of Arizona's examination of equity. Dr. Kurth gave an overview of the decision to participate in the study with the American Institute of Research (AIR) funded by an OJJDP grant to examine disparities with a focus of Hispanic youth. The study's methodology was to expand upon prior research while looking at a two-year time frame from 2013 to 2014. Methodology also consisted of relative rate indices (RRI) and logistic regression (odd ratios). Dr. Kurth gave an overview of Arizona's population in 2014 and then the overall findings from the research. Disparities were found at several court decision points, but not all of them. Disparities were greatest for African American youth. Both Mr. Redpath and Dr. Kurth concluded that Arizona maintains DMC as an ongoing priority and that the Arizona Judicial Council is interested in learning about local efforts to increase equity and fairness in Arizona.

- **Substance Abuse**

Jamal Givens, from Child and Family Resources, presented on the program, "Thriving for Success". Mr. Givens gave an overview of the Liberty Partnership Kino Neighborhood Council (LPKNC). Their mission is to bring together residents, organizations and agencies that are committed to serving the Southside neighborhood by fostering and maintaining a vital drug free community. LPKNC consist of four main focus areas: Individual support through behavioral health referrals, family support through the Strengthening Families Program (funded by GOYFF), community support through coalitions and groups, and schools. "Thriving for Success" is a school based program in the Tucson Sunnyside School District. The program uses an evidenced based curriculum focusing on substance abuse prevention and violence. Mr. Givens' stressed the importance of prevention programs like "Thriving for Success" and the need for continued programs that support youth during their crucial developmental years.

- **Systems Improvement**

The Family Involvement Center presented on the Parent Engagement Partnership, which provides support to parents involved in the Juvenile Justice Services System. The partnership is between three agencies: Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department, Family Involvement Center and Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care. An MOU has been established to create a strong foundation in collaboration between these entities. A parent support worker provided her perspective on why this model of parenting engagement is effective, citing her own experiences as a parent and her ability to empathize and understand what parents' needs are. The presentation identified a need for further parent representation and involvement in other systems improvement efforts to ensure the population targeted for services are able to provide their valuable input.

ON THE HORIZON- PLANNING SESSION AND NEXT STEPS

Mr. Shogren asked members to consider the accomplishments and barriers expressed by each presenter. Members gave feedback for each focus area based on what they heard, and staff documented issues that members identified for further analysis in future meetings. Issues contributed by the members were then linked to standing committees of the commission. The information collected in this segment of the meeting will be compiled and provided to the commission to help inform the committees' work for the upcoming year. The information will also be used to guide members when developing the next state plan.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Nannetti adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.